



SECONDARY WORKS: *What works?*

ANYONE who has visited a metaphysical bookstore lately can see that there is a dire need of more secondary works for *The Urantia Book*. Each of the other book-based movements has its own separate section where browsers can look for related works. *A Course in Miracles*, for instance, which came out twenty years after *The Urantia Book*, often has several feet of shelf space devoted to its many well-produced secondary works—interpretations of the teachings, personal experiences, biographies of the founders and leaders, books by Marianne Williamson, and so on.

When looking for *The Urantia Book*, on the other hand, one never knows where to start. It can be found almost anywhere, depending on the whim of the bookstore owner. It might be sitting in the Religion section, the New Age section, the flying saucer section, or the Western Mysticism section. Usually it is clumsily placed in the Occult section, alongside other one-time-only books that debuted over a century ago and never got off the ground—such as *OAHSPÉ*, which is almost as thick as the UB but is green. Even the names sound similar, as neither one has yet gained mainstream recognition and respect. When *OAHSPÉ* came out in 1882, it declared itself “the most astonishing book in the English language.” It described God, the universe, the angelic hierarchy, man’s history, destiny and purpose. In the preface to the first edition it reads, “*OAHSPÉ* will become known abroad all over the earth world!” But its time has come and gone, and if you read it today it sounds quaint. Although it has sporadically been

reprinted, it will never be taken seriously by the masses, and it appears never to have had secondary works to back it up.

If we don’t want URANTIA to begin sounding like OAHSPÉ we had better get serious about producing secondary works that will tie the book and its teachings in with things people can relate to. The revelation needs its own section or subsection in bookstores where it can gain staying power.

But what types of secondary works would be most effective? Restating what the book says in simplified language is one way, and each one of us would write a very different book, as no two of us interpret even the most straightforward sentences alike. And that is as it *should* be, for we can reach more people that way.

Looking at history, it seems that God works most effectively and almost exclusively through inspired individuals. If his work is done through a group, it is usually a group headed by an inspired leader who has a vision, and who can attract like-minded co-workers to help make his or her dream a reality. One example of an inspired individual who is producing a secondary work of immense value is Duane Faw, with his *Paramony*. By paralleling and harmonizing the teachings of *The Urantia Book* with the Bible he is helping to bring *The Urantia Book* into an area that everyone is familiar with. Matthew Block’s upcoming book, *Sources of The Urantia Book*, is another case in point. When people see that many of the phrases and concepts were with us already, written by ordinary men and women—though not combined before in such a comprehensive way—Matthew’s

work will help bring *The Urantia Book* out of the occult and into the mainstream where it belongs. We need to build a bridge between the Urantia teachings and prevailing knowledge and beliefs. For my part, I am working on a “travelogue” about life after death, taking assorted gems from many other books I have devotedly collected over the years and fitting them into the framework given to us by *The Urantia Book*.

Only by having something to compare *The Urantia Book* to will the world be able to recognize, relate to, and be enriched by the amplified concepts, but each project will need an inspired and devoted “leader” who will find a way to bring his or her beloved area of study into the world where it can be appreciated by others. Unfortunately we cannot *hire* anyone to do this job—to work for God one must come out of the woodwork voluntarily and usually work for free. Even if one cannot write a book himself, he could help by taking a course in history, anthropology, astronomy, biology or geology, and in the process introduce the book to a classmate who will be so enthralled by the teachings that he will become the connecting link between that subject and the outside world.

We need secondary works that inform, not preach. We need to integrate the teachings so that they can act as a leaven, to add new dimensions and insights to what people already know and believe. We don’t need another religious movement, but we need to help upgrade the ones we already have. *Now* is the time, for should we ever become well known as a separate and competing religious sect our time will have passed. —Saskia Raevouri